



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue #10

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

3 August 2012

Pest Patrol Hotline

The information contained herein each week is available via a toll-free hotline. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. Call the free number **(877) 285-8525** and select the messages you would like to hear. Select #1 for updates from the Southern Region. Select #3 for the Southeast, and then select #1 to hear my message. Text alerts are also available. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

Kudzu Bug Seminar/Field Day

The United Soybean Board is funding a meeting here in the Southeast concerning the kudzu bug. We are putting together a program that will include an in-field tour of plots infested with the species and an indoor session for data delivery and additional questions/answers. Of course, the important portion of this meeting will be the in-field tour. We have loads of kudzu bugs in plots right now, and they should have tons of bugs by the meeting time. The meeting will be held here at the **Edisto REC near Blackville, SC, on 11 September 2012** (a Tuesday). The program will begin in the morning at 9:00 AM (8:30 registration) and conclude early in the afternoon after lunch. All folks (except presenters) desiring to attend need to RSVP by simply emailing me (green4@clemson.edu) and letting me know. Producers, The agenda will include topics such as:

- Discovery and distribution of kudzu bug/bean plataspid in USA
- How did the insect get here, and from where did it come?
- Biology of the kudzu bug
- Tour of soybean field plots and field discussions
- Maturity groups, planting dates, etc.
- Insecticide efficacy
- Yield component analyses/field cages
- Host plant resistance
- Recommendations for control in soybeans
- Bio-control potential
- Multi-state panel question/answer session
- And more!

News from Above the Lakes

Jacob Stokes, county agent covering Clarendon, Florence, and Williamsburg Counties, reported that he is “starting to see some corn earworms, soybean loopers, and brown stink bugs in some older beans. The corn earworms are the only ones that meet the threshold for spraying yet though and only on beans that have some pods. As far as kudzu bugs, I am seeing an increase in the populations but only slight...still mainly on the edges of the fields.” Jacob also reported seeing some suspected borer damage in soybeans this week.

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Public Service Activities

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News from Below the Lakes

Charles Davis, county agent covering Calhoun and Orangeburg Counties, reported that he “stink bugs continue to be hard to find in cotton around here. It’s a little scary, actually. I keep hoping they don’t sneak up on us when we least expect it. Boll damage is almost non-existent and I can’t seem to find a live bug in the fields I have looked at this week. In soybeans, kudzu bugs continue to be across the board with adults, nymphs, and eggs. Numbers vary by field with some fields having relatively high populations and some very light. I looked at several fields that have been sprayed twice and still had strong populations. I think the problem is with water volume and pressure. [It might be] hard to kill bugs below the canopy with 12 gallons and 30 psi on lapped up beans.” Jonathan Croft, county agent covering Dorchester and Berkeley Counties, reported that he has some cotton being treated for stink bugs in his area, but that nothing else was really causing problems there. Sprays have cleaned up some problems with green cloverworms in soybeans, but kudzu bugs continue to build.

News from the Piedmont/Upstate

Chris Talley, county agent covering Anderson, Pickens, and Spartanburg Counties, reported “seeing quite a few kudzu bugs and some immatures in soybeans and a few green cloverworms and an earworm or two. Chris took the picture here of kudzu bugs hatching out of eggs. This is the second generation on the way!



Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm

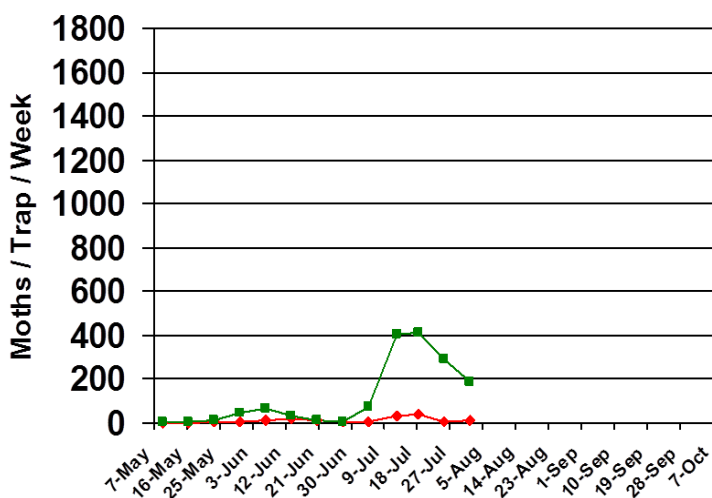


Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2011 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for a very limited number of non-Bt-cotton acres. I provide these data as a measure of moth activity in our local area where I use these data as

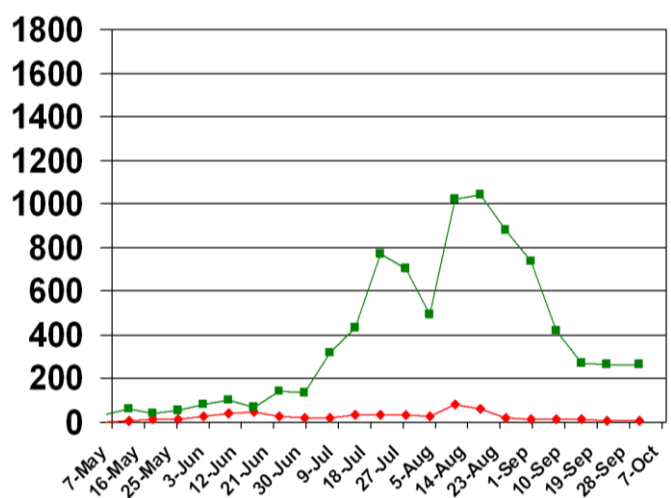
an indication of moth presence and activity near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2012



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2011



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Cotton Situation

As of 30 July 2012, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had the cotton crop at about 93% squaring, ahead of where we were last year at 88%, and the 5-yr average of 91%. The crop has set bolls on about 50% of our acres, compared with 54% last year and 44% for the 5-yr average. Conditions of the cotton crop are described as 7% excellent, 55% good, 34% fair, 3% poor, and 1% very poor. Soil moisture levels in the state were described for the past week as 13% very short, 43% short, and 44% adequate, with no surplus. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Important in Cotton Right Now

Stink bugs and spider mites appear to be the main culprits in cotton currently. Check for injured bolls using our stink bug boll-injury threshold, and look for building populations of spider mites. Follow guidelines for control.

Soybean Situation

As of 30 July 2012, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 40% of soybeans as bloomed, compared with last year at 55% and the 5-yr average of 47%. Pods have been set on about 14% of acres, compared with 9% for last year and 14% for the 5-yr average. Conditions of the soybean crop are described as 3% excellent, 46% good, 39% fair, 11% poor, and 1% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Identification of Caterpillars in Soybeans

Remember, it is extremely important to be able to readily identify species of caterpillars in soybeans. I covered that in the last newsletter, so be sure to reference that for identification characters. Choice of insecticide will depend upon what species of caterpillars are present, along with other species in the field that are also economic problems. PROPER IDENTIFICATION IS CRITICAL. Some insecticides will not work on some species.

Kudzu Bug/Bean Plataspid

The first generation of kudzu bugs continues to molt from the last immature stage (below, left) into adults and will continue to move into soybeans. July-planted beans (below, center) are starting to accumulate this new generation. Damage to soybeans can be extensive if high and untreated (below, right).



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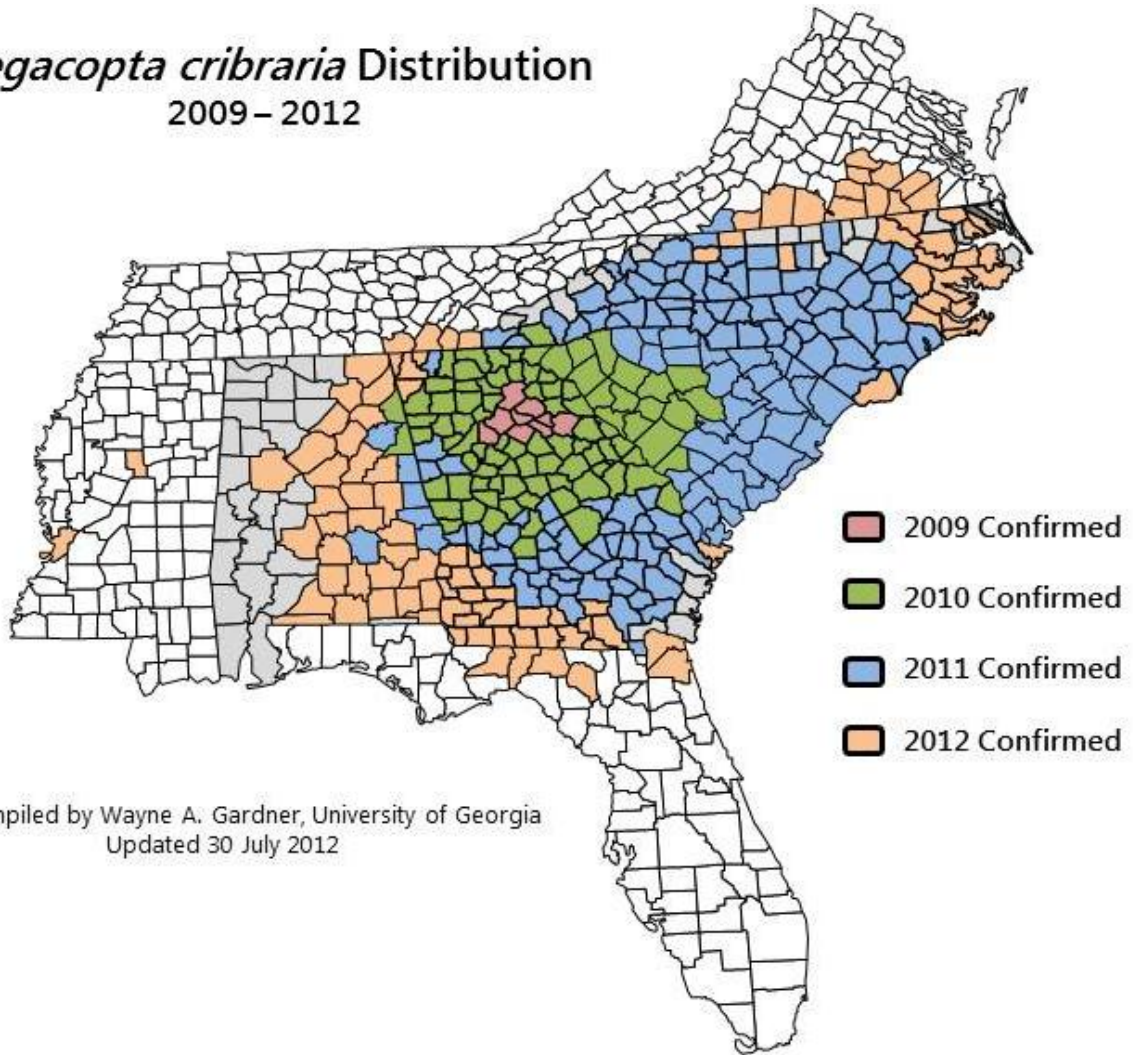
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Here is the latest map of the distribution of the kudzu bug, *Megacopta cribraria*, in the Southeast. Many thanks to Dr. Wayne Gardner (UGA) for updating and supplying this map regularly. There are 8 **states** now reporting this invasive species. In order of appearance of the pest: Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Alabama, Virginia, Florida, Tennessee, and Mississippi. South Carolina remains the only state to be completely infested with this species.

Megacopta cribraria Distribution 2009 – 2012



A 12-minute presentation on the kudzu bug is open access until 31 October at the link below. A shorter presentation is open access permanently courtesy of the United Soybean Board. View these at:

<http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/edcenter/seminars/soybean/kudzu>.

Visit our kudzu bug webpage for the latest information on this invasive pest:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/kudzubugs/index.html>

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Pest Management Handbook - 2012

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2012 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at:
<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/index.html>

Need More Information?

For more Extension information: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/>

For historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest_management/newsletters/index.html

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
Professor – Entomologist



Visit our website at:
<http://www.clemson.edu>

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